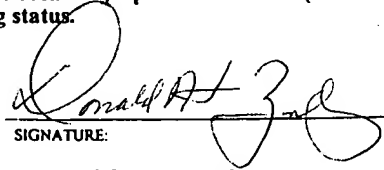


FORM PTO-1390 (REV 11-98)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEYS DOCKET NUMBER	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				P03958US1	
				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US00/02028		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 26 January 2000 (26.01.00)		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 5 April 1999 (5.04.99)	
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD AND MEANS FOR FILLING NATURAL CASING SAUSAGES					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US CATE et al.					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.					
2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.					
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).					
4. <input type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.					
5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))					
a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).					
b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.					
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).					
6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).					
7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))					
a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).					
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.					
c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.					
d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.					
8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).					
9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).					
10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).					
Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:					
11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.					
12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.					
13. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.					
14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.					
15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.					
16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:					
-Certificate of Express Mailing (in duplicate) Label No. EL688892880US					
-Executed Small Entity Statement					
-Copy of Article 19 Amendment					

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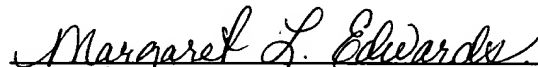
09/674399 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US00/02028		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER P03958US1	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. .... \$970.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$840.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$760.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$670.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$96.00 <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>		<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>  \$ 840.00 \$ 130.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		\$ 130.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	24 - 20 =	4	X \$18.00
Independent claims	7 - 3 =	4	X \$78.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>			<b>\$ 1354.00</b>
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).			\$ 677.00
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>			<b>\$ 677.00</b>
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).			\$
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>			<b>\$ 677.00</b>
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property			\$
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>			<b>\$ 677.00</b>
Amount to be:			\$
refunded			\$
charged			\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>677.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.  b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.  c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>26-0084</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.			
<b>NOTE:</b> Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.			
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: DONALD H. ZARLEY ZARLEY, McKEE, THOMTE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C. 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200 Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721 US Phone: (515) 288-3667 Fax: (515) 288-1338			
RECEIVED NOV - 2 2000			SIGNATURE:  Donald H. Zarley NAME 18,543 REGISTRATION NUMBER

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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed Form PTO-1390 (Rev. 11-98) Transmittal Letter (in duplicate) to the U.S. Designated/Elected Office, check for \$677.00 USD and documents associated with a filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 for, applicants for the US re PCT/US00/02028, have been mailed by the U.S. Postal Service's Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Box: PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231, prior to 5:00 p.m. on 31 October, 2000.



Margaret L. Edwards

Express Mail #EL688892880US